

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00
ACDA-12 SOE-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NASA-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02
DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-20 /179 W
-----001859 270122Z /20

P 270118Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1623

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 02159

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, UNGA, CA

SUBJECT: SSOD PLENARY STATEMENT OF CANADA, MAY 26

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS REPORT ON MAY 26 SSOD
GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH OF CANADA. END SUMMARY.

2. SURVEYING PAST EFFORTS IN DISARMAMENT, PRIME MINISTER
TRUDEAU UNDERSCORED THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE DECLARATORY
APPROACH: "DECLARATIONS OF GOOD INTENT ARE NO SUBSTITUTE
FOR REAL DISARMAMENT." IT WAS THEREFORE NATURAL, HE
CONTINUED, THAT "WE SHOULD HAVE LOWERED OUR SIGHTS TO
THE MORE PRACTICAL AIM OF MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS A
DISARMED WORLD BY BUILDING IT BRICK BY BRICK." WHILE
NOTING A NUMBER OF USEFUL ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS HAVE
BEEN NEGOTIATED OVER THE PAST DECADE, TRUDEAU CALLED FOR
A NEW STRATEGY TO "SMOTHER" THE ARMS RACE. HE SAID THIS
STRATEGY SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: 1) A
COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN; 2) AN AGREEMENT TO STOP THE
FLIGHT-TESTING OF ALL NEW STRATEGIC DELIVERY VEHICLES;
3) ON AGREEMENT TO PROHIBIT ALL PRODUCTION OF
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FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES; 4) ON AGREEMENT
TO LIMIT AND THEN PROGRESSIVELY REDUCE MILITARY SPENDING
ON NEW STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEMS. TRUDEAU SAID
AIM OF THIS STRATEGY IS "TO HALT THE ARMS RACE IN THE
LABORATORY." TRUDEAU THEN LAUDED PRESIDENT CARTER'S
"FOR SIGHTED POSTPONEMENT OF A DECISION TO PRODUCE A
SPECIAL BATTLEFIELD NUCLEAR WEAPON" AND EXPRESSED HOPE

SOVIET UNION'S RESPONSE "WILL BE SUCH AS TO MAKE IT
POSSIBLE TO EXTEND THAT POSTPONEMENT INDEFINITELY."

3. ON NONPROLIFERATION, TRUDEAU DEFENDED CANADA'S
"PRECEDENT-SETTING SAFEGUARDS POLICY." NOTING THAT
"WHILE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION REMAINS A SOURCE OF CONCERN,
IT HAS SHOWN ITSELF AMENABLE TO CONTROL," TRUDEAU
CONTENDED "THAT IS MORE THAT CAN YET BE SAID ABOUT
THE TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS." TRUDEAU SAID
CANADA "COULD ACCEPT ANY CONSENSUS THAT MAY BE ARRIVED
AT AMONG SUPPLIERS TO CUT BACK ON MILITARY EXPORTS."
HOWEVER, TRUDEAU CAUTIONED THAT TO CURB THE RIGHTS OF
PURCHASING COUNTRIES" WOULD REVIVE MUCH OF THE ACRIMONY
OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALECTIC." HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED
THAT THE INCENTIVE TO ACQUIRE CONVENTIONAL ARMS BE
DIMINISHED "THROUGH COLLECTIVW REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS."

4. ON INSTITUTIONS, TRUDEAU CALLED FOR A STRENGTHENING OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND SECURITY.
HE SAID "CANADA CONSIDERS IT OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE THAT
FRANCE HAS DECIDED TO REJOIN THE DISARMAMENT DIALOGUE."
HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PRC "WILL SEE ITS BEST INTERESTS
SERVED BY JOINING ITS EFFORTS TO THOSE OF OTHERS IN
ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF DISARMAMENT." YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN02159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780223-1044
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780510/aaaaaimh.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a6284693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2509172
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SSOD PLENARY STATEMENT OF CANADA, MAY 26
TAGS: PARM, PORG, CA, UNGA, UNSSOD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a6284693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014